

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 15, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are amended to more clearly define the invention.

Support for the amendments is found in the existing claims and in the Application description in connection with the Figure 2 and other places. Specifically, support for "automatically communicating application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of different applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu" is found in the Application on page 5 lines 25-37 and lines 31-33. This section indicates "Manager 250 employs a system protocol for passing session context information to applications 200 and 230 via URL query or form data. The session context information comprises a session identifier, a hash value, and application specific data. ... The application specific data is tailored to meet the intended function of a target application." Also application specific context information may be conveyed in "URL data" and includes "context information comprising a session identifier and optionally a user or patient identifier" (Application page 10 lines 35-37).

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,826,051 – Porter et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,115,040 – Bladow et al. These claims, as amended, are considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claim 1 and for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 recites a method "used by a first application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications" comprising "receiving user identification information; initiating authentication of said user identification information; communicating a URL to a managing application for storage, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to said authenticated user identification information; and automatically communicating application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of different applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu". These features are not shown or suggested in Porter in combination with Bladow.

The system of amended claim 1 includes "communicating a URL to a managing application for storage, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response" to "authenticated user identification information". Neither Porter nor Bladow, individually or together, suggest such features. Bladow in column 16 lines 1-3 discloses acquiring a URL of a logon web page ("a customer 1340 retrieves a logon Web page by pointing a Web browser to the ""networkMCI Interact" Uniform Resource Locator (URL)"). However, neither Bladow nor Porter, individually or in combination, suggest "communicating a URL" of a web page providing a single logon menu to a "managing application for storage". The Bladow logon menu appears to be embedded in a client platform. There is no 35 USC 112 compliant disclosure in Bladow (with Porter) of a system enabling "communicating a URL" of a web page providing a single logon menu to a "managing application for storage". Such a feature advantageously facilitates "user initiation (e.g., logon), operation and termination (e.g., logoff) of multiple Internet applications" and "securely passing URL, patient (and user) identification and other information between applications" (Application page 4 lines 21-25. Specifically this feature enables a parent application to dynamically select a single logon web page for use by a "plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information". Thereby "Internet compatible applications employing this system may be dynamically re-organized to implement different workflows or task sequences involving different operational constraints and limitations" (Application page 4 lines 11-14). This feature and its advantages are not recognized in Porter with Bladow and there is no motivation or other reason for incorporating this feature in the combined system.

The system of amended claim 1 also includes "automatically communicating application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of different applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu". Such application specific context information includes a patient identifier or user identifier, for example (Application page 10 lines 35-37). The claimed system advantageously "automatically" communicates "application specific context information to a particular application of

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

said plurality of different applications" such as a patient identifier "in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu". Thereby the system enables a user to logon to a first application such a patient census application and gain automatic access to multiple other applications such as a medical laboratory test result application and in response to user activation of the test result application, be automatically provided with desired test results for the specific patient selected in the first patient administration application (see example described on page 5 lines 6-10 and elsewhere in connection with Figure 2). This is done without the user having to re-enter context information (e.g., a patient identifier) by link selection or another command following automatic logon to a second application. This capability is not shown or suggested in Porter with Bladow. The combination of single logon page together with automatic communication of application specific context information "in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in response to automatic logon" facilitates user friendly operation and user seamless navigation in a plurality of concurrently operating applications. The system addresses the problems involved in "facilitating user initiation (e.g., logon), operation and termination (e.g., logoff) of multiple Internet applications and in securely passing URL, patient (and user) identification and other information between applications. A managing application is employed to coordinate user operation sessions. Specifically the managing application coordinates inactivity timeout operation and maintains and conveys properties between concurrent applications in order to create a smooth user operation session" (Application page 4 lines 23-29).

In contrast, the combination of Porter and Bladow as suggested in the Rejection results in a system for managing active windows of concurrently operating applications accessed via logon using a fixed embedded URL link to a logon web page and requiring a user to enter context information following selection of a child application from a parent application. Such a system fails to provide the seamless navigation and user friendly operation features of the claimed arrangement. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of amended claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Amended dependent claim 2 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 2 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show or suggest a system in which "said plurality of different applications individually require different user logon information" and "said application specific context information comprises at least one of, (a) a user identifier

Scr. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

and (b) a patient identifier and including the step of automatically using said URL to acquire data representing said web page providing a single logon menu in response to a detected logoff condition". Porter with Bladow, fails to suggest automatically communicating "application specific context information" between two applications comprising "at least one of, (a) a user identifier and (b) a patient identifier" following automatic logon to the two applications via "a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring different user logon information". Further, Porter with Bladow, fails to suggest "automatically using said URL to acquire data representing said web page providing a single logon menu in response to a detected logoff condition". This feature advantageously provides a unified logon page to individual applications following a logoff occurring to an individual application of "said plurality of different applications". Such a capability is not discussed or contemplated in Porter with Bladow. Bladow discusses "a logoff transaction" in column 17 lines 42-49 as merely returning a status condition to a client platform" and provides no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure of automatically using a common URL of a logon page to automatically support re-logon to an individual application of "said plurality of different applications" in the event of a logoff condition (Application page 17 lines 14-17).

Dependent claim 3 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 3 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show or suggest the feature combination including "communicating additional parameters to said managing application for storage, said additional parameters including one or more of, (a) an authentication service identifier, (b) a language identifier, (c) a frame identifier identifying a browser frame to be used, (d) a timeout value and (e) user identification information and receiving parameters from said managing application including one or more of, (i) a session identifier corresponding to a particular user logon initiation, (ii) a session key for use in encrypting or decrypting URL data and (iii) a parameter identifying success or failure of a request to establish a session". The combined system of Bladow with Porter fails to provide a 35 USC 112 compliant enabling description of the feature combination of claim 3 concerning storing parameters by, and receiving parameters from, a "managing application" supporting logon and "user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information".

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

Dependent claim 4 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 4 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show the feature combination in which "said URL is for use in acquiring a web page providing a **common logon menu** to support user access to a plurality of different applications including said first application following **termination** of said first application" and "said application specific context information is communicated to said particular application in a data field of a URL". As previously explained, neither, Porter nor Bladow discuss or contemplate use of "**common logon menu** to support user access to a plurality of different applications including said first application following **termination** of said first application". Further, Porter with Bladow, fails to suggest automatically communicating "**application specific context information**" to "said particular application in a data field of a URL" following automatic logon to the two applications via "**a web page providing a single logon menu** to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring different user logon information".

Dependent claim 5 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 5 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show or suggest the feature combination of claim 5 in which "**said communicating step communicates a timeout value to said managing application for determining an inactivity period for triggering automatic logoff of at least one of a plurality of concurrently open applications**". Porter in column 36 lines 29-57 relied on in the rejection (page 4) merely discusses time out of display images and windows and does not suggest communicating a "**timeout value**" to "**said managing application for determining an inactivity period for triggering automatic logoff of at least one of a plurality of concurrently open applications**". Neither, Porter nor Bladow is concerned with such features. Bladow in column 22 relied on in the Rejection (page 5), does NOT show or suggest "**communicating**" a "**timeout value**" to "**said managing application for determining an inactivity period for triggering automatic logoff of at least one of a plurality of concurrently open applications**".

The heartbeat function of Bladow is **fundamentally different** to the claimed system and comprises a different function employed in a different manner to achieve a different result that addresses a different problem. A heartbeat system, as relied on in the Rejection, provides a way of switching a user session of application and computer operation from a first server to a backup server (running parallel applications) in the event of a **failure** of the first server and has nothing to do with

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

"activity" management at all. This mechanism also effectively prevents unwanted sessions from remaining open in the event of client application failures (Bladow column 4 lines 27-29). Specifically, the Bladow system provides a "keep alive message" passed between a client and a server, also called a "heartbeat". The "keep alive message" is sent every predefined period, e.g., 1 minute from a client application to the server" (Bladow column 4 lines 18-29). That is, the "keep alive message is automatically and periodically generated by the client application independently of user initiated activity in the application and is NOT an indicator of "activity" but merely that a client application has not terminated through hardware or software failure. The client application generates the "keep alive message" even when there is no user activity or other non-heartbeat related activity in the client application. Therefore, the Bladow system does not suggest "communicating" a "timeout value" to "said managing application for determining an inactivity period for triggering automatic logoff of at least one of a plurality of concurrently open applications".

Dependent claim 6 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 6 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show or suggest a system involving "communicating an authentication service identifier to said managing application; and receiving a user identification code associated with said authentication service from said managing application". Contrary to the rejection statement on page 5, Bladow (with Porter) in column 16 and 17 a "session ID" is NOT an "authentication service identifier".

Dependent claim 7 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1 and because of the additional feature combination it comprises.

Amended independent claim 8 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claim 1. Claim 8 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show or suggest a "browser application for receiving user identification information and for initiating communication of said user identification information to a second application in response to user selection of an icon displayed in a browser window; a managing application for receiving a URL from said second application for storage, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to said authenticated user identification information; and a communication processor for

Scr. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

automatically communicating application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of different applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu".

The combined system of Bladow with Porter fails to suggest use of "a managing application for receiving a URL from said second application for storage" and for "use in acquiring a web page providing" the "single logon menu". Further the combined references fail to suggest these features in combination with "a browser application for receiving user identification information and for initiating communication of said user identification information to a second application in response to user selection of an icon displayed in a browser window". The claimed system advantageously "automatically" communicates "application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of different applications" such as a patient identifier "in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu". The combination of single logon page together with automatic communication of application specific context information "in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in response to automatic logon" facilitates user friendly operation and user seamless navigation in a plurality of concurrently operating applications. These features are nowhere discussed or suggested in Porter with Bladow.

Amended dependent claim 9 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 8 and for reasons given in connection with claims 1, 3 and 8. Dependent claim 9 is also considered to be patentable because Porter with Bladow does not show or suggest a system involving "automatically communicating application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of different applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application" made "from within said second application" and "in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu"

Dependent claim 10 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 8 and for reasons given in connection with claims 1, 3 and 8.

Dependent claim 11 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 8 and for reasons given in connection with claims 1, 5 and 8.

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

Dependent claim 12 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 8 and for reasons given in connection with claims 1, 3 and 8.

Dependent claim 13 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 8 and for reasons given in connection with claim 1 and 8.

Dependent claim 14 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 8 and for reasons given in connection with claim 1 and 8.

Amended independent claim 15 recites a system "supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications including first and second applications, comprising: a web browser application including, a user interface display generator for generating a browser window containing icons enabling user initiation of operation of said first and second applications; a menu generator for providing a logon menu common to said plurality of Internet compatible applications individually requiring user logon information by acquiring a web page providing said common logon menu from a logon web page URL address provided to said browser application by said second application, said logon web page URL address being conveyed from said first application to said second application in response to user initiation of said second application via said browser window; and a communication processor for automatically communicating application specific context information to a particular application of said plurality of Internet compatible applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said particular application and in response to automatic logon to said particular application via said single logon menu". These features are not shown or suggested in Porter in combination with Bladow for the reasons given in connection with claims 1 and 8.

Amended dependent claims 16-19 are considered to be patentable based on their dependence on claim 15 and because of the additional feature combinations they comprise.

Amended independent claim 20 is considered to be patentable for the reasons given in connection with the preceding claims.

Amended independent claim 21 recites a system "A system used for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications,

Ser. No. 09/817,321

PATENT RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING
GROUP (2142)
01P07411US

comprising: a processor for receiving and storing a URL from a first application, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications; and at least one communication processor for, communicating said URL and a session identifier to a second application of said plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to a request by said second application to said managing application to establish a session of user operation and automatically communicating application specific context information to said second application of said plurality of different applications in response to a user command to initiate execution of said second application and in response to automatic logon to said second application via said single logon menu". These features are not shown or suggested in Porter in combination with Bladow for the reasons given in connection with claims 1, 3 and 8 and for additional reasons.

Dependent claim 22 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 21 and for reasons given in connection with claims 1 and 21.

Independent method claims 23 and 24 mirror apparatus claims 21 and 15 respectively and are considered to be patentable for similar reasons. Consequently withdrawal of the Rejection of claim 1-24 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander J. Burke
Alexander J. Burke
Reg. No. 40,425

Date: March 16, 2005

SIEMENS CORPORATION
CUSTOMER NO. 28524
Tel. 732 321 3023
Fax 732 321 3030